Introduction

Revised in 2009, this edition of *African American Family Histories and Related Works in the Library of Congress* incorporates all the past efforts of Sandra Lawson and Paul Connor, supplemented by the edition of 84 family histories and genealogical handbooks. Because of the changing technological environment since the first publication of this guide, links to the Library of Congress vast collection of digitized records and resources related to the African American experience in America have been included covering African American culture and society, places, slave narratives, military records, and resource guides. These electronic resources include digitized oral histories, newspapers, maps, and photographs. The addition of these digital resources and books published after 1997 enriches the availability of resources pertaining to African American family histories at the Library of Congress.

In the previous edition, Paul Connor selected 183 books that were cataloged during the period 1973-1997, covering topics ranging from abolitionists, American Loyalists, and revolutionaries to masters and slaves, freedmen, Civil War soldiers, and Cherokee Indians. In addition to published genealogies, the researcher will find references to handbooks on planning family reunions, abstracts of newspaper notices, and even some abstracts of funeral programs. The individual states under which these books have been cataloged are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Illustrations are included in 130 of the publications, and many of them also cite bibliographical references. All entries are arranged under subject headings with pertinent cross-references, thus obviating the need for a subject index.

In 1988 the Library of Congress published Sandra M. Lawson's *Generations Past: A Selected List of Sources for Afro-American Genealogical Research*. This filled the need for a bibliography of published sources that was sufficiently broad to encompass African-American family histories, genealogical handbooks, genealogical organizations, newspaper collections, biographical indexes, and catalogs. This compilation complements *Generations Past*. Researchers, therefore, will benefit by consulting both of these publications.

For additional resources related to conducting African American genealogical research, please consult the guide *Afro-American Genealogical Research* ([http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/afrohow.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/afrohow.html)).

For digital resources related to the African American experience, please visit *Journey Into Your Past: African American Genealogy at the Library of Congress* ([http://www.opal-online.org/LOC200906journeyafam.html](http://www.opal-online.org/LOC200906journeyafam.html)).
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